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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Ninth special session (First Part)

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 480th MEETING

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Wednesday, 7 September 1977, at 5.25 p.m.

President: Mr. de ALWIS (Sri Lanka)

CONTENTS

Provisional agenda for the second part of the ninth special session of the Trade and Development Board, at the ministerial level, in consideration, inter alia, of Conference resolutions 90 (IV) and 94 (IV), decision 149 (XVI) of the Trade and Development Board, noting General Assembly resolution 31/158, having in mind other relevant United Nations proposals and recommendations, and in particular draft resolution TD/L.124 which has been remitted to the ministerial session of the Trade and Development Board (agenda item 2)

Preparatory work for the second part of the ninth special session (agenda item 3):

(a) Report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on the External Indebtedness of Developing Countries (TD/B/670)

(b) Mandate of the second meeting of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on the External Indebtedness of Developing Countries

Organization of work

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Corrections to the records of the meetings of the Board at the first part of its ninth special session will be consolidated in a single corrigendum to be issued shortly after the end of this part of the session.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SECOND PART OF THE NINTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD, AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL, IN CONSIDERATION, INTER ALIA, OF CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS 90 (IV) AND 94 (IV), DECISION 149 (XVI) OF THE TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD, NOTING GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 31/158, HAVING IN MIND OTHER RELEVANT UNITED NATIONS PROPOSALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS, AND IN PARTICULAR DRAFT RESOLUTION TD/L.124 WHICH HAS BEEN REMITTED TO THE MINISTERIAL SESSION OF THE TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD (agenda item 2)

PREPARATORY WORK FOR THE SECOND PART OF THE NINTH SPECIAL SESSION (agenda item 3):

(a) REPORT OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP OF EXPERTS ON THE EXTERNAL INDEBTEDNESS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (TD/B/670)

(b) MANDATE OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP OF EXPERTS ON THE EXTERNAL INDEBTEDNESS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

1. The PRESIDENT said that the consultations with the co-ordinators of the regional groups had enabled some progress to be made with respect to the provisional agenda for the second part of the ninth special session of the Board, since one group had already presented a preliminary proposal which, although dealing exclusively with procedural matters, would constitute a good starting-point for future discussions. With regard to the mandate of the second meeting of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on the External Indebtedness of Developing Countries, no proposal had yet been made, but he hoped that the discussions he had had with the co-ordinators would provide a stimulus to the groups and lead to positive proposals.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

2. The PRESIDENT said he had always held the view that even if they could make their voice heard through the spokesman for the regional group to which they belonged, delegations should have an opportunity of following the work that went on in the smaller committees. It had thus been decided at the current session that all delegations wishing to do so could attend the meetings of the Contact Group. Unfortunately, the only room equipped to provide interpretation in six languages that had been placed at the Board's disposal was that in which the plenary meeting was currently being held, and because of its size it was not very suitable for smaller meetings. The Contact Group had therefore met in a smaller room which was one interpretation booth short, so that some delegations had been unable to participate in the deliberations.

3. After examining the question with the co-ordinators of the regional groups, he had reached the conclusion that the only way in which the Board could really draw the attention of the United Nations General Assembly to that practical problem was to take a decision in good and due form, and he therefore proposed - provided there was no objection on the part of the Board - to submit a draft decision requesting the General Assembly and the other competent authorities to take immediate steps to see that two smaller and appropriately equipped rooms were placed at the Board's disposal for its smaller meetings.

4. He also pointed out that a number of delegations had not yet presented their credentials, and he invited them to complete the necessary formalities as soon as possible so that the Board would be in a position to adopt the Bureau's report on credentials.

The meeting rose at 5.45 p.m.